

What is claimed is:

1. A stent having a tubular body defining a longitudinal axis comprising:

5 first, second and third annular segments, each annular segment defining a substantially sinusoidal shape having a plurality of peaks and valleys, the second annular segment being positioned between the first and third annular segments, the first and third annular segments being in phase and the second annular segment being 180° out of phase with the  
10 first and third annular segments such that the peaks of the first annular segment extend toward the second annular segment and are aligned longitudinally with the valleys of the second annular segment and the peaks of the third annular segment,

first and second pluralities of bridge elements, the first annular  
15 segment being connected to the second annular segment by the first plurality of bridge elements and the second annular segment being connected to the third annular segment by the second plurality of bridge elements, each bridge element of the first plurality of bridge elements being connected between a valley of the first annular segment and a  
20 longitudinally adjacent peak of the second annular segment and each bridge element of the second plurality of bridge elements being connected between a peak of the second annular segment and a longitudinally adjacent valley of the third annular segment.

25 2. The stent of claim 1 wherein the second bridge elements are longitudinally offset with respect to the first bridge elements.

3. The stent of claim 1 wherein the second bridge elements are substantially shorter than the first bridge elements.

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4. The stent of claim 1 wherein the annular segments have a length of about two millimeters.

5. The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is comprised of a superelastic material.

6. The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is comprised of a shape-memory material.

7. The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is comprised of nitinol.